

LOOKING FOR RELIEF.

That money must be found somewhere. The taxpayers of England are burdened almost to the last pound, the income-tax being now one shilling and two pence in the pound. What the English taxpayer is next going to consider is this: "Is there any other way that we can shift the burden of taxation?" We have the tax on our income, and tobacco and spirits are taxed to the last notch. Is there any other way that the burden can be distributed? It must not be shifted in such a way as to involve an attack upon free trade which is sacred to the mind of the British people. You must not attack that, except as a war defence measure. If you can get it at all, my opinion is that is the way to get it. The fact is that the middle class, as well as the aristocratic class, all owners of property, feel they are overburdened with taxation, and are willing to shift the burden from their own to the shoulders of somebody else. In making that adjustment I believe it is possible by a proper and statesmanlike representation, to bring about such a change as will serve the purpose and lead some day to preferential trade. (Cheers.) This view is speculative, I admit, but we must study this question before we can find a solution.

TO STRENGTHEN THE COLONIES.

The next question asked was, what will the colonies do towards the defence of the empire? I answered. Would a proposition like this meet your approval: You are sending out every year something like 100,000 people from the United Kingdom. You have cut the population of Ireland almost in two in the last 50 years, reducing it from 8,000,000 to 4,500,000. Of course the greater number of these people did not come to us. Where are all these people going? Where are the tens and hundreds of thousands from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales going? We get a small percentage of them, it is true, but where are the others going? If you want to make the colonies strong and put them in a position to defend the empire, send us your surplus population. This is a most important matter. I must not speak too boldly, but I do feel this is a view of the question which Englishmen never considered seriously. I think I am speaking within the absolute truth when I say that this view had never occurred to them. (Hear, hear.) I remember discussing it briefly with Lord Lansdowne, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and a former Governor-General of the Dominion, who takes a lively interest in Canada to-day, and he felt the importance of it. At least he said so, and I have no doubt he was sincere, and in the meetings I addressed—I only addressed three or four altogether—I said in my view that that and the trade question, taking the two as one, is the keystone to the future prosperity of Canada. (Hear, hear.)